

LDNS

Lies, Deceit & Nefarious Schemes

Vol 1 No. 8

January 7, 1978

LDNS is dedicated to the promotion of Postal Diplomacy*, its variants, offshoots, war games, chess, females, how to make money, how to meet girls, football, baseball, politics, and a whole lot more. Unfortunately I haven't had the room for the stuff other than Diplomacy but if the postal rates ever go down I will include some of the other items. (Don't hold your breath!)

Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill (4317 Harford Rd.; Baltimore, MD 21214.) Who happen to be the same people who said, and I quote, "...the desert warfare game we're working on will not utilize the Panzer Leader System." General Jun 75. and then said, "...the long awaited Arab-Israeli Wars...utilizes an improved version of the Panzer Leader game system..." General Feb 77. That sounds like some of the Diplomacy letters I receive.

THE NEWS DESK:

For all you publishers that are new to this game or if you plan on starting a zine in the near future be forewarned that if you mail to Canada and your zine isn't closed on all four sides, like this one, you may get it back. It seems that every so often a Canadian mail clerk gets picky and rejects the zine. (An ex-player no doubt.) By the way, for you Canadians, don't blame me about it being a Canadian postal clerk who rejects them, that's what a US postal clerk told me.

ORCCON--For all of you So. Cal Dippy players (or you rich East Coast publishers) there is a convention for wargames January 13,14,15 at Cal State Fullerton. The Diplomacy tourny is Sunday at 9 o'clock. If I can get away I may be down there myself.

BIG NEWS--I got a job. ecch!

Tony Watson, the publisher of Ruritania, wishes to announce that contrary to popular belief Ruritania is not dead. There have been rumors to the fact that he was folding his zine but according to Tony it is alive and well and pushing a new subscriber drive. I have seen but a few issues of Ruri and they appear to me to be very well done. If you're into SF game Tony is the person to talk to because he seems to be the most informed person I've talked to about it. In case you're interested Tony's address is 201 Minnesota, Las Vegas, NV 89107.

DipCon XI--To be held this year in conjunction with GLASC III at California State University at Northridge on June 23,24 and 25. I'll be there, I'll be the one in the LDNS Is Still the One T-Shirt.

For all of you publishers that didn't get Everything 35, you should have. The confusion over whether or not Cal was going to Trade for Everything is inside Everything. Yes, he will trade for Everything but not for his zine EGB. ((By the way Cal, you really made me sound like a dummy in your last issue of EGB. I sent you that letter BEFORE I received Everything!--JHJ))-

IDA-NA For those of you who have sent in money but have not heard anything the reason now is simple. Bob Hartwig has taken the treasury from Steve Brooks and he has your checks but he can't deposit them until the the Bank account is transferred into his name. Hang tough, he's still working at it and you should hear from him very soon.

Everything you didn't want to know about the questionnaire and didn't care to ask.

To begin with the winner of Five, yes count 'em five, free issue is... Not yet, read on.

As it turned out, 21 of you turned out, there were less students than I had anticipated subscribing to LDNS. We have a teacher with beautiful penmanship, a Dentist, a legal ass't, a lawyer, a florist (I should have known!), an auto worker, an ass't Credit manager (boo!), an Intern in family practice (the last of a dying breed), an electrician, a general construction worker, lots of editors, and some thing I don't care to print. We've got a History, Business, Biology, and an English major (This one was a real surprise to me. He is a zine publisher and he doesn't have a lot of articles in his zine. I'm not saying that that is wrong but I figured that an English major couldn't write enough. I guess though that after doing it all day one wouldn't want to spend his weekends doing it too.)

The ages of players were about average over all three spaces. The majority were 18-25 or over 30 with the 25-30 age group the smallest. Which is logical for that is about the time where you tend to give up on the things of your youth and after 30 you try to get them back. I don't care, I enjoy it, DIPLOMACY POWER! Again the time in Diplomacy was split about the same. A lot under one year, then 1-2 years tapers off and over 2 years is the strongest.

Now averaging everything out you should be 24 years old, in Diplomacy about 1.5 years, subscribe to 5 zines (or 19 trades), currently be in 7 games and have completed 3.5 (1.5 if I don't count one player who has completed 50 games.)

OK, The winner is, wait before I tell you that the results on the IDA-NA section showed that exactly 50% of you are members of the IDA-NA (don't ask how I can get 50% out of 21 people.) Most of you would like to see a census but noone has used the Ombudsman, except a publisher but he wasn't the one how who called upon the Ombudsman. Interesting,

By the way all of the complaints and/or suggestions that were written down will be forwarded to Bob Hartwig. And to Bob G. let me know how much the IDA-NA owes you for that booklet or if you still want it. (The same thing happened to me so I may as well get your money at the same time I get mine.)

I was really shocked to read that almost all of you are really concerned with ethics. I am at the point where almost anything that isn't covered in the rules is OK. The few exceptions being "Black Press", Karma-style leagues, lying to GM, or asking for a favor in one game in return for assistance in another. Should anyone do the latter let me know and I will be happy to print the culprits name and what he did for certain things are wrong in Postal Dippy that are not covered by the rules and cannot be stopped but that practice can be with a little cooperation.

Oh, yes the five free issues go to Mr. Shoot I almost forgot, you're waiting to hear which was the best and worst country to play. As far as the favorite France was the fav with Ger and Russia a close second. NO ONE picked Turkey as thier favorite. As for the worst to play it was a tie with all of the countries except Russia. No one minded playing Russia.

What was the best zine you ask? I thought you were curious to see who won the free issues, I was going to tell you but since you want to know who took the prize it was...LDNS of course. Hey that was nice but you guys weren't just stroking me?? Just remember that in the spring when there is supposed to be a zine survey. No. 2 was Claw and Fang. As for the worst zine I'm not going into that. There was one that got more voter response then the others but not bad enough to say anything. Actually you seemed to hate two things in a zine, the primary one being lateness. There weren't very many questionaires that did not complain about a zine being late. One thing that I found out that I thought was very interesting and which ties in to something that Doug Beyerlein said. Doug said that the only problem with LDNS was that I was trying to be all things to all people.

(Cont on page 4)

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1977-HW
"The West Coast Game"
Spr '03

NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING GAINED. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED...NOTHING.

AUS (T. Sherwood) A Gal-Ukr; A Rum S A Gal-Ukr; A Vie-Gal; A Tri S A Bud-Ser;
F Gre S ITA F Eas-Aeg (nso)
ENG (D. Fugihara) F Gas-Bre; F Nwy-Nth; F Lon S F Nwy-Nth; A Pic-Par
FRA (D. Brownell) A Bre-Par; F Eng-Bre; F MAO S F Eng-Bre; A Mar-Bur; A Spa-Gas
GER (C. Spiekerman) F Swe-Both; F Ber-Bal; A Mun-Sil; A Kie H; A Bur-Par;
A Bel-Bur; A Ruh S A Bel-Bur; A War S A Mun-Sil /d/ ret Pru, Mos or OTB.
ITA (D. Ditter) A Rom-Ven; A Tun-Syr; F Ion & F EMed C A Tun-Syr.
RUS (W. Hoyleman) A Ukr-War; A Lvn S A Ukr-War
TUR (D. Hard) F Con-Aeg; F Smy S F Con-Aeg; F Blk-Con; A Bul S AUS A Rum;
A Sev S AUS A Gal-Ukr

Ger retreat and Fall '03 due to me noon Saturday January 28th.

No Press.

1977-IA
Winter '02

SEPARATION OF SEASONS WAS CALLED FOR AND GRANTED. I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE THING TO SAY SO LET'S SKIP IT.

AUS (A. Tomcufcik) Builds F TRI Mas F Gre, Tri A Gal, Tyr, Ser (5)
 ENG (R. Bermingham) Removes A Lon Has F Nwg Nth Ska A Swe (4)
 FRA (J. Morris) Builds F Bre Has F Bre Eng A Bel Bur Pic Mar (6)
 GER (J. Diehl) No change Has F Den Hel Bal A Kiel Hol (5)
 ITA (J. Rogowski) Builds A Ven Has F Tyrre EMed A Ven, Tun (4)
 RUS (J. Poore) No change Has F Sev Both A Ukr Nwy Sil (5)
 TUR (C. Reges) Builds F Smy Has F Smy Blk Aeg A Rum Bul (5)

Press withheld until Spring '03
Ordors on file for Italy, Tur, Eng
Fall '03 is due noon Saturday January 28th.

1977-KX PRESS:

PARIS: C'mon, Kaiser, those moves you proposed were absolutely ridiculous!

You're not talking to some novice at this game, you know.

Somewhere in the MidAtlantic Ocean, aboard the *Francaise*: The mighty French Empire declares war on the puny Portugese because we know we can beat the snot out of them.

Roman Northern Provinces will be protected; even tho doing so may appear to be aggressive.

LONDON: The King is a very odd fellow. Out of hatred of habits and unnecessary customs, he is stranding his only army in the North. "We will learn those morons a thing or three about the Royal Navy" quoth he.

PASADENA TO Rome: Yes, but I got over it last week. (Dallas is my second favorite team. ((8 points over Denver))

Eydwtkatqadcta (CON'T)

Maybe he is right, you can't be all thing to all people. For example one person listed as his favorite zine: Claw & Fang and his worst zine was Boast. While on the very same day another person listed Boast as his favorite and C&F as the worst. Interesting. Now how many of you noticed that I didn't tell you what the second most hated thing in a zine was, very good, you're paying attention. The other thing was where a publisher uses his zine as a platform for his own personal ramblings and the games come second. I think that most of us publishers have that fault to some degree but some go overboard.

I thank you who sent back this questionaire and I hope that the results were as interesting to you as they were to me.

What? Oh yeah, David Hard was the winner of the five free issues.

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The While Were On The Subject Of Zines Look What Has Happened To LDNS Section.

Notice something different? I HATE IT!!! Be warned the issues after this will probably go back to legal size. For me its more expensive and with the legal size 4 pages and a conference map was right on the 1 oz. mark but with this 5 pages and I'm over the limit, you see I use mimeo sub-24 paper which is heavier than most use (last issue was sub-28) hence absolutely no bleed through. So for those of you who didn't like the legal size I am sorry but I am going back to it. Maybe I can do something like put the games at the top of the page so you can cut off the bottom (between you and Jim Diehl I'm going to keep busy!)

Also the BIGGEST complaint about LDNS was that I can't spell, Wrong! The problem isn't that I can't spell but rather I would be in such a rush to get this in the mail by Sat night that sometimes my fingers moved faster than my brain. And with the exception of the games I didn't proof-read the articles very well for spelling for I didn't feel it was of the utmost importance. So here is the new policy that may or may not affect you. The zine will now be taken to the Post Office on Sunday instead of late Saturday. This will give me a little more time to go over the spelling and the contents. Some parts of the US will receive the zine one day later (or so the post office says!) Of course even though I am working on the zine moves will not be accepted after noon on the Saturday. Let me tell you on the deadline days I go into my office first thing in the morning and I swear to you I don't leave until about 10 o'clock in the evening when I rush down to the Post Office to mail this. This was the first Sat when I slowed down and it was kinda nice, I was able to run around and get some other things done and relax at the same time.

Now you see why I hate short sheets (I hated that kind too). I want to talk about zine ratings but there isn't enough room, drat. So instead...

This Weeks Personality on Parade:

Jim Bumpas

I'm 34 yrs old. Born Dallas, TX at Baylor hospital. I went to school to dodge the draft and hold the worlds record for student deferments under the old Selective Service law. It allowed only 4 but I received 7. After law

This won't fit either...Oh good græf...

So... Did I tell you that for Christmas I got a new collar and chain for my dog? As a puppy he was so full of life that we decided to call him that...Life. Ever since Christmas I've been trying to get a new leash on Life. ((Suffer!!!))

1977-IS

The Publisher's Game
Fall '02

Summer '02 Eng F Bel ret Eng

FRANCE COMPLAINS OF PASTA PRICES AND SAILS TO ITALY TO FIND OUT THE PROBLEM.
 ENGLAND COMPLAINS OF PASTA PRICES TOO AND SAILS TO RUSSIA (This would be a great place for an ethnic joke!!) TURKEY, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA COMPLAIN BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T MENTIONED IN THIS HEADING.

AUS (Bumpas-Liberterrean) A Tri-Tyr; F Gre-Bul(sc); A Rum & A Ser S F Gre-Bul(sc)
 ENG (Bunke-The 9th Circle) A Nwy-Swe; F Nwg-Nwy; F Bar-StP(nc); F Nth-Ska;
 F Eng-Nth
 FRA (Agosta-Command) F Lyon-Tyrr; A Gas-Mar; A Par H; F Spa(sc)-WMed; F Mao-NAF
 GER (Hartwig) A Sil-War; A Ruhr S A Bel; A Bel S A Ruhr; F Den S ENG A Nwy-Swe;
 F Bal S ENG A Nwy-Swe.
 ITA (Cook-Suicide) A Pied-Mar; A Bul S RUS F Blk-Con(nso)/annih/; F Aeg-Gre;
 F Tyrr-Tun.
 RUS (Ditter, Dave) A Mos-War; A Fin S A Swe; F Both S A Swe; F Blk-Sev;
 A Swe S ENG A Nwy(nso)
 TUR (Beardsley-Brouhaha) F Con S AUS F Gre-Bul(sc); A Arm-Smy; F Ank S F Con

Supply Center Chart

	has	adj.
AUS Home, Rum, SER, BUL	6	+2
ENG Home, Nwy, BEL, STP	5	0
FRA Home, Spa, Por	5	0
GER Home, Hol, Den, BEL	6	+1
ITA Home, GRE, TUN	5	+2
RUS SYP, War, Mos, Sev, Swe	4	-1
TUR Home, BUL	3	0

Press:

ANKARA: Wanted: One ally willing to work with me. Must be kind, trustworthy and intelligent enough to see there are bigger fishes to be had.

No Dateline: The tri-weekly meeting of the Get Bob Beardsley Club was held as usual last week. Topics discussed were "How", "When" and "Where". It was decided that the answers were "With everything", "Now" and "all over". This week the first meeting of the "Get Everyone Who's Getting Bob Beardsley Club" was held. The GBB club is not yet recognizing the GEWGBB club as legitimate as yet. They've decided to wait until it's too late!

MOSCOW: I am suffering from a serious identity crisis. What the hell, I might as well go to school in Austria-Hungary.

King Robert began preparations for his Fox hunt.

"Where would be the best place for my Fox hunt?" asked Robert at a meeting with his servants and staff.

Chuck Erman shifted uneasily. Lord Hartwig noticed the movement and called on him. "Well, what is it Erman?" A pause hung ominously in the air. "Well, Erman? Spiek Erman, Spiek!"

"Well sir, I have a friend in Birmingham, England. His name's Roger. Maybe he'll know of a good place."

"Get ahold of your friend immediately!"

"But sir, how are you going to get there?"

"Bey Er Lein (By Air Line), of course!"

((After that I have sworn off puns. If I ever make another pun may I drown in the Polma Sea--JHJ))

1977-IS Press con't:

ROME: The insane Brouhahaglini today tried to attempt a prison break, but as he was climbing the wall headed for the freedom of the outside world, he felt a sudden pain in the back. He turned, and there was the Archduke, who was Commandant of the prison holding an Italian knife in his back.

PIEDMONT: A husband and wife team?

PIEDMONT: Today a great battle took place outside the borders of our great nation. The great Frack lead an army of 100,000 against a traitor named Agosta. It was the Legions of Rome meeting the Barbarians of the West again in battle.

Winter '02 and Spring '03 due noon Saturday January 28th.

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A Personal Profile: Jim Bumpas

I'm 34 years old. Born Dallas, TX at Baylor hospital. I went to law school to dodge the draft, and hold the world's record for student deferments under the old Selective Service Law. It allowed only 4, but I received 7. After law school ended in 1968 I tried for 4 years to get honest employment. Found I had to work too hard for too long for too little money, so I took and passed the bar exam in 1972. Since then I find I can work 2 or 3 hours a day to earn enough to live and enjoy myself. I've been playing Diplomacy since 1961 when I encountered it as a freshman in college. Only learned about pbm in 1973. I play and enjoy tactical Civil War and WW2 and modern armored games, in addition to Diplomacy. I'm a history buff, and enjoy reading and camping. I liked Mississippi when I was there, and have lived in Georgia, and liked that very much. I also like country music (in addition to other types). I also saw one Rose Parade in person (a bunch of us went over from Verdugo Hills High School in my senior year and camped out on Colorado Blvd. all night to get a curb seat). I drive a 1966 Volvo with over 200,000 miles put on it by myself and Linda. My low level of consumerism allows me to enjoy life more (with fewer things: so-called "timesaving devices" require you to spend more time working to buy & keep them in repair than you save by having them). Anyway, that's my opinion of consumerism; you're entitled to your own opinion.

((Thank Jim. I can't believe that you don't even have an electric carrot peeler!!!))

A Personal Profile: Gary Kilbride

It seems that Jerry and I have a similar background. I watch, listen or whatever I can do re: Sat, Sun, Mon night football games. I am a bit older than him though. I was an Aviation Fire Control Tech. I was out of work (11 mos.) I have a lovely wife, Barbara and a future Dippy team, Pat (PJ), Tina, Kathleen and Maureen. Pat is ____ (I was 28 when Pat was born) and is a good Dippy, Kingmaker & a few more games player, but his school work must come first. I play war games of all kinds, collect stamps to a small degree, I too enjoy those close intimate times with my women, Barb too. I spent some time in Cal, OK, Tenn, Fla, So Europe, No Africa & Western Asia--(I can remember which was worse--sorry but Cal takes the prize!)

I enjoy all kinds of music-CW included. I've live in the Virgin Islands for the better part of 20 years and have never seen the synagogue--supposedly one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. We leave things like that for the tourists

My wife is a legal sec'y but I've been unable to convince her of the need

Con't

for a Dictaphone, mag card typewriter, etc. She uses the old fashioned short hand method. She won't do it for my letters, only for those 4 lawyers that work for her, (research, court appearances, etc.) Legal Sec'ys of America unite! She doesn't like my suggestions. She says for a part time stenographic assistant our budget can't afford it. I think it might be something else. Dippy Widows of America unite!!

Barbara loves to receive letters--her address is the same as mine if any of you Dippy widows out there would like to share thru the mails whatever Dippy Widows talk about FTF. Besides the Beyerlein's and the Buchanan's are there any other Husband-Wife Dippy players?

((Thanx th you too, Gary. I have a letter that I hope to get off to you before the week is out. I really enjoyed your whole letter and there are some questions I have for you.--JHJ))

OK, whose next???

I should be closing this up but I have too much to say in this issue so I'm going to continue and pay out the extra postage. What the hell, I just got a job!

I never thought of it before but I sure hope that nobody minds this kind of casual approach to this zine. I like it this way, it's not so stanch and stoic as some zines I've seen.

Oh, I almost forgot, Gary Kilbride in his profile intentionally omitted his son's and his own age and he mentions something about a prize for the person guessing closest to his age. He never mentioned what the prize was but he did sent a pamphlet of the Virgin Isles; so maybe the prize is a free trip?? (I'll betcha the prize is the pamphlet.)

No John, I didn't forget you it's just that I'm having my problems with this format.

THE FEAR
by John Caruso

What do we all think about in this game? Not supply centers, not strategic location, not alliances, not honesty and not Diplomacy. The one thing we think about in the depths of our minds while playing Diplomacy is the fear. And what is the fear? It's the gut feeling and anticipation that a stab is near. We all live with it. That's what this game is all about. We all fall prey to it. There is no way to avoid it. Some players try to avoid it by not writing, or by making 6 allies. But neither ever works. Somewhere, sometime, someone will stab, and "the fear" will be a reality. When it does come, all we can do is hold our head up high and say "The worst is over, I fear no more."

((Thanx a lot John, John has written a couple of articles for LDNS and we really appreciate his efforts. Anyone else who is interested is more then welcomed to write something. John will get a gift certificate redeemable in LDNS subs, games or merchandise.

Some of you may have noted that there have never been any "How To Play" articles in LDNS. The reason is simple, I don't feel qualified enough to write one so maybe one of you vets will write us an article. I know that its all been said before but some of us have never had the chance to see it.--JHJ))

1977-KC
Spr '02

AUSTRIA SHIELDS HERSELF FROM ATTACK WHILE ENGLAND DIEHLS A BLOW TO FRANCE.
GERMANY REGES OUT TO RUSSIA TO FEED HER ARMIES BUT THE ONLY THING OPEN TODAY IS THE EICHEL BERGER STAND.

AUS (S. Shields) A Ser-Bul; F Gre S A Ser-Bul; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri-Tyr; A Bud-Ser
ENG (J. Diehl) F Nth-Eng; F Lon S F Nth-Eng; F Nwy-Nth; A Yor-Wal
FRA (J. Caruso) F Bre-Eng; F Por-MAO; A Mar-Spa; A Bur-Mar
GER (C. Reges) A Ber-Pru; A Mun-Sil; F Kie-Bal; F Den S F Kiel-Bal; A Hol-Ruhr;
A Bel S A Hol-Ruhr
ITA (D. Mueth) A Ven-Tyr; A Pied S A Ven-Tyr; F Tun-WMed; F Nap-Tyrr
RUS (C. Eichelberger) F Both-StP(sc); A StP-Mos; A Ukr-Sev; F Rum S F Sev-Blk;
F Sev-Blk
TUR (J. Machir) A Bul S F Blk-Rum/annih/; F Blk-Rum/d/ ret Ank or OTB; A Ank-Arm

Prcss:

ROME--Aspirat primo fortuna labori.

Paris to Ankara--The President accepts the apologies of the Sultan and wishes to extend his own public apology for such a degrading remark as calling the Sultan an invalid.

PARIS--The foreign ministry wants to know what the Turkish governments wants done with the head of Ibin Post Agedue? His head ain't worth two cents.
Paris to Rome--I could care less where Piedmont stands geographically. You agreed to neutrality. By making me garrison Mar, you doom yourself to eventually a two-front war. Foolish move and suicidal. Besides, the peasants of Picdmont await annexation now. Withdraw unconditionally and we will see.

~~CRETE~~--M&M's are cheap and stale. They don't even go together.

~~CYPRIUS~~-- Word from informed sources said that Chicken of the Sea is about to get water logged. Save the bird before he drowns.

Views From Vienna-- The opinions expressed by CRETE do not neccssarily reflect thosc of its management.

PASADENA---JOHN, I let it slip by before by accident but I will not allow anyone to write press with a dateline other then that of a country that they presently own. Absolutely NO black press!!! My apologies to Austria and any inconvenience it may havc caused. Note: all previous press dated Crete & Cypres were of French origin.

Fall '02 due noon Saturday January 28th.

LDNS-5 to be known now as 1977-KX
Spring '01

AUS (D. HARD) F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Ser
ENG (L. Harmon) A Lvp-Edi; F Edi-Nwy(imp); F Lon-Nth
FRA (C. Reges) A Par-Bur; A Mar S A Par-Bur
GER (K. Peterson) A Mun-Bur; F Kiel-Hol; A Ber-Kiel
ITA (J. Diehl) A Ven-Pied; A Rom-Ven; F Nap-Ion
RUS (G. Kilbride) F StP(sc)-Both; A War-Gal; A Mos-Ukr; F Sev-Blk
TUR (T. Long) A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con; F Ank-Blk

Press at bottom of page 3
Fall '01 due noon Saturday January 28th.

Oh, what else am I forgeting? Oh, yes.

ZINE RATINGS (EDITORIAL)

The trend lately has been the talk about zine ratings. I am in favor of zine ratings. I think that LDNS will fair well in open competition. But I am afraid that that is what it will become. A good, unbiased zine rating would have its merits. It might keep the publishers on their toes and it would give the players a chance to compare zines before they subscribe to one.

Before we talk about a rating system we must touch upon what motivates a person to give up his weekend to do this. For the most part publishing a zine is like playing Diplomacy, its a hobby. I doubt if any of the pubs. make any money at this, I know I sure don't, so it must be a labor of love and a hobby. So does a pub really owe anything to his subscriber? Yes and No. While its true you did spend good money for it I can assure you that the pub is spending more, but he did promise you a service so the answer is yes and no. So we can't really criticize a pub for doing a bad job because it's not a job but there is room for a listing of how good he is at his hobby leastwise you don't get into something you don't want.

Andy Cook in his zine "Suicide" has a zine ratings in his last issue. LDNS scored in a tie for first place but that is not what caught my eye first. What did was the fact that I didn't get a perfect score for promptness. So while Andy was complimenting me I was feeling slighted. But in any zine rating worth its salt it will have to have something on promptness. But promptness is a complex matter. Bob Beardsley suggests that a listing of how many zines were published in a six mo. period. That is a good idea but it must go further then that. Along with how often it comes out is how close to the deadline does it come out. I can think of quite a few monthly zines that are received weeks after the deadline but the next deadline is exactly one month from the last one so in reality you may have to send the following moves right after you get the zine with no time for Diplomacizing. Even in LDNS there is barely enough time for you even though you get it right after the deadline. So promptness is a many sided subject.

I think that the manner that the GM handles his games should also be in th rating. What happens when he errors? Does he try to contact the players involved, does he delay the game an issue or how does he do it? How do you put that into a rating? As a player I feel cheated when a game is delayed. I've waited a long time for the zine and when it comes I will have to wait again. Am I compensated for it? No. I still have to pay for the issue anyway. As a pub I say, hey, I'm not perfect and it costs me money to publish this zine and all I am asking is for a little understanding in return. They both are right but how do you show that in a rating system?

Other things in a rating would be simple to list: Types of games, how many games, cost of zine and games, how produced, length, how long its been around, etc. That would be the easy part. But just who does it? Who is going to sub to all of the zine? We could have a committee do it and they could get the zines from trades with their own zines. (Which brings me to a sore subject with me. I don't mind a publisher who trades on a "scale" basis. That is basically his zine costs \$4 for 10 issues and mine is \$3.50 for 10 issues so I owe him 50¢. I'm not happy with it but I can live with it but what I do hate is a pub that only sends every other issue to me. I send him all of mine why can't I get the same courtesy in return? As of right now I am cancelling all trades with zines who do that.)

Back on the ratings what I think would be a good idea would be a three phase rating system. 1 being a listing of of the main facts of the zine as outlined above. 2 would be a fun sort of thing that would have no real meaning.

Con't

It would be a popularity poll of all the readers of all the zines. Naturally a zine with a higher reader number would get more votes but then to get that many people they have to be good. Actually the newer zines (like LDNS) would not fair well because of the low amount of subscribers. Z would be one of the more useful items in rating the zine. Randomly chose 10 subscribers of the zine and have them, anonymously, rate the zine on a 1-10 scale basis covering many different topics about the zine.

Now what I've mentioned is not a simple process but if a thing is to be done and to be used it must be done well. Zine and player ratings are here to stay so let's give it some thought before we say that this is the one to use. (How many different player ratings are there? I would like to find one of each that is fair and comprehensive.)

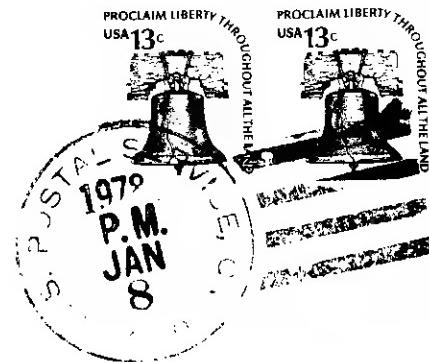
I know that some of you have more brains then I do so if you have come up with a good rating system let me hear it. And please no letters saying that player ratings are no good that they are nothing more then an ego trip. They basically are nothing more then an ego trip but what is the fault in that?

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

Not too much humor in this issue but since I've been working not much has seemed funny but I am working on another great article that will surpass the "Diplomacy Widow" (Which was the favorite article.)

Game openings: I have one person signed up for the next Diplomacy game. Two if Andy still wants in. Hurry up and tell your friends to sign up for this one for there may not be too many more new games in the future.

Jerry H. Jones
1854 Wagner St.
Pasadena, CA 91107
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You have 7 more issues

Please see page _____

No standbys were needed

Happy New Year

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